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## Introducing the Cyber Security Corpus (CySeC)

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# **Abstract for Social Networking in Cyberspace conference (SNIC 2015)**

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**Title of presentation:** Introducing the Cyber Security Corpus (CySeC) — The use of semantic prosody in cyber security discourses

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## **Abstract**

Communication about cyber security represents an integral part of the securitization of everyday life in the 21st century. This presentation introduces the Cyber Security Corpus (CySeC) as a way of systematically exploring how cyber security discourses uses linguistic expressions to influence online behaviour and attitudes. The CySeC is a half a million word corpus of written text samples obtained from different genres of cyber security discourses, such as academic articles and essays, government reports and newspaper articles.

The first part of this presentation outlines the sampling frame used in the construction of the CySeC, the second part shows the use of semantic prosody and semantic fields that form regular semantic patterns and linguistic knowledge representations that typically characterize cyber security discourses. A comparison with other standard British-English reference corpora showed that the CySeC had an inflation of semantic items related to the genre of 'information and technology discourse' with a strong informative focus resulting in a marked under-use of personal pronouns and semantic items that express personal feelings. A parts-of-speech analysis of the most frequent nouns, verbs and adjectives also showed a restricted and condensed core vocabulary that reflected a sense of semantic self-circularity, vagueness and therefore a low level of discursive depth. In contrast, the most frequent verbs produced greater levels of discursive specificity to the extent that the verbs described behavioural strategies to facilitate safe online practices and to protect computer systems from cyber threats.

The third part demonstrates how cyber security discourses draw on a wide range of metaphorical schemas, such as 'information and knowledge' as well as 'green issues' and 'drama and performance'. A final discussion explores the importance of language use in cyber security discourses to facilitate greater understanding of the securitization of cyber space.